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INVENTOR(S): Shell Sterling Simpson, et al.

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SUBJECT: DOCUMENT PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT IN A DISTRIBUTED ENVIRONMENT

U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313

APPELLANTS'/APPLICANTS' OPENING BRIEF ON APPEAL

1. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST.

The real party in interest is Hewlett-Packard Development Company, LP, a limited partnership established under the laws of the State of Texas and having a principal place of business at 20555 S.H. 249 Houston, TX 77070, U.S.A. (hereinafter "HPDC"). HPDC is a Texas limited partnership and is a wholly-owned affiliate of Hewlett-Packard Company, a Delaware Corporation, headquartered in Palo Alto, CA. The general or managing partner of HPDC is HPQ Holding, LLC.

2. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES.

There are no other appeals or interferences known to Appellants, Appellants' legal representative or the Assignee which will affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

3. STATUS OF CLAIMS.

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-15, 17-21, and 23-32 and 34-38 are pending. Claims 4, 10, 16, 22, and 33 haves been cancelled. All pending rejected claims are appealed.

4. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS.

No amendments to the Specification or Claims have been filed after the latest action was entered.

5. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER.

Claim 1 recites a method for providing queue management and production device status in a distributed environment. The method includes providing a queue configured to contain production data directed to each of a plurality of production devices. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraphs [0028], [0039], and [0042], page 8, line 28 through page 9, line 9, page 12, lines 15-21, page 13, lines 14-29, Fig. 3, element 36 and Fig. 6 element 96. First production data and second production data received from one or more clients are placed in the queue. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraphs [0036] and [0042], page 11, lines 6-7, page 13, lines 14-29, Fig. 4, step 58 and Fig. 6, element 96. The first production data includes first production options

for a first target document identified by one of the one or more clients. *See, e.g.,* Specification, paragraphs [0028] and [0041], page 8, lines 30-32 and page 13, lines 4-13. The second production data includes second production options for a second target document identified by one of the one or more clients. *See, e.g.,* Specification, paragraphs [0028] and [0041], page 8, lines 30-32 and page 13, lines 4-13.

A queue interface is generated and presented to the client. *See, e.g.,* Specification, paragraphs [0028] and [0036], page 8, line 28 through page 9, line 9 and page 11, lines 7-9, and page 13, lines 4-13. The queue interface has user accessible controls for managing the first and second production data held in the queue. Specification, paragraphs [0028] and [0042], page 8, line 28 through page 9, line 9 and page 13, lines 14-29, Fig. 3, element 36 and Fig. 6 element 96-102. The first production data is to be delivered from the queue to a first one of a plurality of production devices, and the second production data is to be delivered from the queue to a second on the plurality of production devices. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraph [0039], page 12, lines 15-21, and Fig. 5, element 72. A status interface for a chosen one of the first and second production device selected through the queue interface is generated. *See, e.g.,* Specification, paragraph [0042], page 13, lines 25-29. The status interface is presented to the client. *See, e.g.,* Specification, paragraphs [0036] and [0042], page 11, lines 7-9, and page 13, lines 25-29.

Claim 8 recites a method for mediating access to production devices. The method includes providing a queue configured to contain production data directed to each of a plurality of production devices. *See, e.g.,* Specification, paragraphs [0028], [0039], and [0042], page 8, line 28 through page 9, line 9, page 12, lines 15-21, page 13, lines 14-29, Fig. 3, element 36 and Fig. 6 element 96. An access request for a first production device of the plurality of production devices is acquired. *See, e.g.,* Specification, paragraph [0036], page 11, lines 3-6, fig. 4, step 54. The access request originates from a client. *See, e.g.,* Specification, paragraph [0036], page 11, lines 3-6, fig. 4, step 54. The client is presented with a production interface for the first production device. *See, e.g.,* Specification, paragraphs [0036] and [0041], page 11, lines 3-6, page 13, lines 4-13, Fig. 4, step 56 and Fig. 5 element 70.

The production interface has user accessible controls for selecting first production data identifying a target document and one or more production options. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraphs [0036] and [0041], page 11, lines 3-6, page 13, lines 4-13, Fig. 4, step 56 and Fig. 5 elements 70-78. The first production data received from the client and selected through the production interface is placed in a queue. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraphs [0036] and [0042], page 11, lines 6-7, page 13, lines 14-29, Fig. 4, step 58 and Fig. 6, element 96. The first production data is directed to the first production device. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraphs [0036] and [0042], page 11, lines 6-7, page 13, lines 14-29, Fig. 4, step 58 and Fig. 6, element 96. Second production data directed to a second production device of the plurality of production devices is placed in the queue. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraphs [0036] and [0042], page 11, lines 6-7, page 13, lines 14-29, Fig. 4, step 58 and Fig. 6, element 96.

A queue interface is generated and presented to the client. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraphs [0028] and [0036], page 8, line 28 through page 9, line 9 and page 11, lines 7-9, and page 13, lines 4-13. The queue interface has user accessible controls for managing the first and second production data in the queue. Specification, paragraphs [0028] and [0042], page 8, line 28 through page 9, line 9 and page 13, lines 14-29, Fig. 3, element 36 and Fig. 6 element 96-102. A status interface is generated for a chosen one of the first and second production devices selected through the queue interface. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraphs [0036] and [0042], page 11, lines 7-9, and page 13, lines 25-29.The status interface is presented to the client. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraphs [0036] and [0042], page 11, lines 7-9, and page 13, lines 25-29.

Claim 14 recites a computer program product for providing queue management and production device status in a distributed environment, the product comprising a computer useable medium having computer readable instructions thereon for implementing a method. That method includes providing a queue configured to contain production data directed to each of a plurality of production devices. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraphs [0028], [0039], and [0042], page 8, line 28 through page 9, line 9, page 12, lines 15-21, page 13, lines 14-29, Fig. 3, element

36 and Fig. 6 element 96. First production data and second production data received from one or more clients are placed in the queue. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraphs [0036] and [0042], page 11, lines 6-7, page 13, lines 14-29, Fig. 4, step 58 and Fig. 6, element 96. The first production data includes first production options for a first target document identified by one of the one or more clients. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraphs [0028] and [0041], page 8, lines 30-32 and page 13, lines 4-13. The second production data includes second production options for a second target document identified by one of the one or more clients. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraphs [0028] and [0041], page 8, lines 30-32 and page 13, lines 4-13.

A queue interface is generated and presented to the client. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraphs [0028] and [0036], page 8, line 28 through page 9, line 9 and page 11, lines 7-9, and page 13, lines 4-13. The queue interface has user accessible controls for managing the first and second production data held in the queue. Specification, paragraphs [0028] and [0042], page 8, line 28 through page 9, line 9 and page 13, lines 14-29, Fig. 3, element 36 and Fig. 6 element 96-102. The first production data is to be delivered from the queue to a first one of a plurality of production devices, and the second production data is to be delivered from the queue to a second on the plurality of production devices. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraph [0039], page 12, lines 15-21, and Fig. 5, element 72. A status interface for a chosen one of the first and second production device selected through the queue interface is generated. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraph [0042], page 13, lines 25-29. The status interface is presented to the client. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraphs [0036] and [0042], page 11, lines 7-9, and page 13, lines 25-29.

Claim 20 recites a computer program product for mediating access to production devices, the product comprising a computer useable medium having computer readable instructions thereon for implementing a method. That method includes providing a queue configured to contain production data directed to each of a plurality of production devices. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraphs [0028], [0039], and [0042], page 8, line 28 through page 9, line 9, page 12, lines 15-21, page 13, lines 14-29, Fig. 3, element 36 and Fig. 6 element 96. An access request for a first

production device of the plurality of production devices is acquired. *See, e.g.,* Specification, paragraph [0036], page 11, lines 3-6, fig. 4, step 54. The access request originates from a client. *See, e.g.,* Specification, paragraph [0036], page 11, lines 3-6, fig. 4, step 54. The client is presented with a production interface for the first production device. *See, e.g.,* Specification, paragraphs [0036] and [0041], page 11, lines 3-6, page 13, lines 4-13, Fig. 4, step 56 and Fig. 5 element 70. The production interface has user accessible controls for selecting first production data identifying a target document and one or more production options. *See, e.g.,* Specification, paragraphs [0036] and [0041], page 11, lines 3-6, page 13, lines 4-13, Fig. 4, step 56 and Fig. 5 elements 70-78.

The first production data received from the client and selected through the production interface is placed in a queue. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraphs [0036] and [0042], page 11, lines 6-7, page 13, lines 14-29, Fig. 4, step 58 and Fig. 6, element 96. The first production data is directed to the first production device. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraphs [0036] and [0042], page 11, lines 6-7, page 13, lines 14-29, Fig. 4, step 58 and Fig. 6, element 96. Second production data directed to a second production device of the plurality of production devices is placed in the queue. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraphs [0036] and [0042], page 11, lines 6-7, page 13, lines 14-29, Fig. 4, step 58 and Fig. 6, element 96.

A queue interface is generated and presented to the client. *See, e.g.,* Specification, paragraphs [0028] and [0036], page 8, line 28 through page 9, line 9 and page 11, lines 7-9, and page 13, lines 4-13. The queue interface has user accessible controls for managing the first and second production data in the queue. Specification, paragraphs [0028] and [0042], page 8, line 28 through page 9, line 9 and page 13, lines 14-29, Fig. 3, element 36 and Fig. 6 element 96-102. A status interface is generated for a chosen one of the first and second production devices selected through the queue interface. *See, e.g.,* Specification, paragraphs [0036] and [0042], page 11, lines 7-9, and page 13, lines 25-29.The status interface is presented to the client. *See, e.g.,* Specification, paragraphs [0036] and [0042], page 11, lines 7-9, and page 13, lines 25-29.

Claim 26 recites a system for providing queue management and production device status. The system includes a plurality of production devices, a client, and a mediation service. *See, e.g.,* Specification paragraphs [0023] and [0025], page 6, lines 24-32, page 7, line 12 through page 8, line 3, Fig. 1, elements 16, Fig. 2, elements 16, 20 and 26. Each production device has a production server operable to generate a status interface for the particular production device. *See, e.g.,* Specification paragraph [0025], page 7, line 12 through page 8, line 3, Fig. 2, elements 28. The client is operable to display a user interface. *See, e.g.,* Specification paragraph [0025], page 7, line 12 through page 8, line 3, Fig. 2, elements 22 and 26.

The mediation service is in electronic communication with the client and the production devices. *See, e.g.,* Specification paragraph [0025], page 7, line 12 through page 8, line 3, Fig. 2, element 20. The mediation service is operable to place first and second production data received from the client in a queue. *See, e.g.,* Specification, paragraphs [0036] and [0042], page 11, lines 6-7, page 13, lines 14-29, Fig. 4, step 58 and Fig. 6, element 96. The first production data is directed to a first production device of the plurality of production devices and includes first production options for a first target document identified by the client. *See, e.g.,* Specification, paragraphs [0028] and [0041], page 8, lines 30-32 and page 13, lines 4-13. The second production data is directed to a second production device of the plurality of production devices and includes second production options for a second target document identified by the client. *See, e.g.,* Specification, paragraphs [0028] and [0041], page 8, lines 30-32 and page 13, lines 4-13.

The mediation service is operable to generate a queue interface having user accessible controls for managing the first and second production data held in the queue. *See, e.g.,* Specification, paragraphs [0028] and [0036], page 8, line 28 through page 9, line 9 and page 11, lines 7-9, and page 13, lines 4-13. The mediation service presents the queue interface to the client. *See, e.g.,* Specification, paragraphs [0028] and [0036], page 8, line 28 through page 9, line 9 and page 11, lines 7-9, and page 13, lines 4-13. The mediation service also presents to the client the status interface for a chosen one of the first and second production devices

selected through the queue interface. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraphs [0036] and [0042], page 11, lines 7-9, and page 13, lines 25-29.

Claim 32 recites a system for providing queue management and production device status. The system includes a plurality of production devices, a client, a queue, an interface conduit, a queue manager, and an interface generator. *See, e.g.,* Specification paragraphs [0023], [0027], and [0028], page 6, lines 24-32, page 8, line 13 through page 9, line 9, Fig. 1, elements 16, Fig. 2, elements 16, 20 and 26, and Fig. 3, elements 26, 34, 36. 38, and 40. The plurality of production devices each have a production server operable to generate a status interface and manage production of a target document. *See, e.g.,* Specification paragraph [0025], page 7, line 12 through page 8, line 3, Fig. 2, elements 28. The client is operable to issue an access request for a first production device of the plurality of production devices and to display one or more interfaces. *See, e.g.,* Specification, paragraphs [0027] and [0036], page 8, lines 13-27, page 11, lines 3-6, fig. 4, step 54. The queue is for storing production data directed to each of the plurality of production devices. *See, e.g.,* Specification, paragraphs [0028], [0039], and [0042], page 8, line 28 through page 9, line 9, page 12, lines 15-21, page 13, lines 14-29, Fig. 3, element 36 and Fig. 6 element 96.

The interface conduit is in electronic communication with the client and the production server or servers. *See, e.g.,* Specification, paragraph [0027], page 8, lines 13-27. The interface conduit is operable to acquire the access request originating from the client and to present to the client a production interface for the production device to which the request is directed. *See, e.g.,* Specification, paragraph [0027], page 8, lines 13-27. The interface conduit is operable to place in the queue first production data received from the client and selected through the production interface. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraphs [0036] and [0042], page 11, lines 6-7, page 13, lines 14-29, Fig. 4, step 58 and Fig. 6, element 96. The interface conduit is also operable to place in the queue second production data. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraphs [0036] and [0042], page 11, lines 6-7, page 13, lines 14-29, Fig. 4, step 58 and Fig. 6, element 96.

The first production data is directed to the first production device and the second production data is directed to a second production device of the plurality of production devices. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraphs [0036] and [0042], page 11, lines 6-7, page 13, lines 14-29, Fig. 4, step 58 and Fig. 6, element 96. The queue manager operable to deliver the first and second production data from the queue to the production server for the production device to which that production data is to be delivered. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraph [0028], page 8, line 28 through page 9, line 9. The interface generator is operable to generate and present to the client a queue interface and to present to the client the status interface for a chosen one of the first and second production devices selected through the queue interface. *See, e.g.,* Specification, paragraphs [0028], [0032], [0036] and [0042], page 8, line 28 through page 9, line 9, page 9, line 24 through page 10, line 2, page 11, lines 7-9, and page 13, lines 25-29.

6. GROUNDS FOR REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED.

A. Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-15, 17-21, and 23-38 stand rejected under §103 as being unpatentable over US Pub. 2002/0138558 to Fertlisch in view of USPN 6,337,745 issued to Aiello and in further view of USPN 6,498,656 issued to Mastie.

7. ARGUMENT.

Grounds For Rejection A – Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-15, 17-21, and 23-38 stand rejected under §103 as being unpatentable over US Pub. 2002/0138558 to Fertlisch in view of USPN 6,337,745 issued to Aiello and in further view of USPN 6,498,656 issued to Mastie.

Claim 1 is directed to a method for providing queue management and production device status in a distributed environment and, as amended, recites the following acts:

1. for a chosen one of the first and second production device selected through the queue interface;
2. placing first production data and second production data received from one or more clients in the queue, the first production data including first

production options for a first target document identified by one of the one or more clients, the second production data including second production options for a second target document identified by one of the one or more clients;

3. generating a queue interface having user accessible controls for managing the first and second production data held in the queue, the first production data to be delivered from the queue to a first one of a plurality of production devices and the second production data to be delivered from the queue to a second on the plurality of production devices ;
4. presenting the queue interface to the client;
5. generating a status interface for a chosen one of the first and second production device selected through the queue interface; and
6. presenting the status interface to the client.

Claim 1 includes one or more acts not taught by Fertlisch, Aiello, and Mastie. In particular, Claim 1 recites providing a queue configured to contain production data directed to each of a plurality of production devices. Claim 1 also recites generating and presenting to a client a queue interface having user accessible controls for managing the first and second production data held in the queue. The first production data is to be delivered from the queue to a first one of a plurality of production devices and the second production data to be delivered from the queue to a second on the plurality of production devices. Once a particular one of the production devices is selected through the queue interface, Claim 1 recites generating and presenting to the client a status interface for the selected production device.

The Examiner asserts that Fertlisch teaches generating a queue interface to a client where that queue interface has user accessible controls for managing production data held in a queue. In support, the Examiner, at page 2 of the final office action mailed December 27, 2007 cites Fertlisch paragraph [0036] and the input interfaces 20 of Figure 1. Paragraph [0036] discusses the input devices 20 of Fig. 1. Input interfaces are defined as devices that enable a user to input

instructions or data into a computer through an input device. Examples of input devices are given as mice, trackballs, light pens, microphone, joystick, gamepad, and a number of other physical devices. Examples of input interfaces are given as serial ports, USB ports, parallel ports, game ports and other physical interfaces.

Nothing in paragraph [0036] or in Figure 1 of Fertlisch even hints at a queue interface that includes user accessible controls for managing print jobs in a queue. Attention is drawn to paragraph [0029] of the Specification which states: "The term queue interface, represents generally, an interface having controls for displaying the status of production data held in queue 36 as well as controls for manipulating the production data in queue 36." Attention is also drawn to Figure 6 of the present application. Fig. 6 illustrates an exemplary queue interface 96 which includes user accessible controls 98, 100, and 102 that enable a user to manipulate various items of production data identified as Story, Brochure, and Catalog with respect to production devices identified as Printer A, Binder, Fax, E-mail, and Printer B. The passages from Fertlisch relied upon by the Examiner simply describe physical communication ports and devices capable of connecting to those physical ports. Fertlisch mentions nothing of a queue interface as recited in Claim 1.

The Examiner asserts, at page 3 of the office action that Fertlisch, paragraph [0027] teaches presenting the queue interface to the client. As Fertlisch does not teach or suggest generating the queue interface recited in claim 1, Fertlisch also fails to teach or suggest presenting the recited queue interface to a client. Furthermore, the passage relied upon by the Examiner mentions nothing of presenting a queue interface to a client where that queue interface has user accessible controls for managing production data held in the queue.

Claim 1 also recites generating a status interface for a chosen one of the first and second production device selected through the queue interface. The Examiner admits Fertlisch fails to teach this act. Instead, the Examiner relies on Aiello and Mastie. In particular the Examiner asserts that Aiello teaches generating a status interface of a production device selected through a queue interface and that Mastie teaches generating a status interface for a chosen one of the first and second production devices selected through the queue interface. Addressing Aiello, a simple review of Aiello's Fig. 9 reveals that Aiello discusses the display of queue

interfaces 160 for devices selected in a status interface 140. Looking at Aiello's Fig. 6, status interface 140 for various printers and servers is displayed. According to Aiello:

> Referring to FIG. 6 , the GUI includes a main status display 140 that allows the operator to manage the print operation, system configuration, and logging in and out of the system. In addition to standard Motif™ X-Windows™ features, the GUI includes features specific to the open print server. For example, source computer and printer icons 142 , 144 , respectively, are displayed and indicate through words 146 and the color of the icon the status of the corresponding device. For instance, a green printer icon indicates that the printer is active, paused, or draining, blue indicates that the printer is idle or drained, brown that the print driver is running but that the printer is unavailable, red that the print driver is unavailable, and yellow that operator intervention is required. Similarly, a green source computer icon indicates that the computer is active while a blue source computer icon indicates that the computer is idle.

Aiello, col. 6, line 66 through col. 7, line 14. In other words, the status interface 140, through color, informs a user of the status of one of a number of production devices 144.

Moving to Fig. 9, a user has selected "Job Queue" 158 for a drop down "view" menu 156 provided by the status interface 140. The queue interface 160 is displayed as a result. As one can see, interface 160 is a queue interface for jobs directed to all of the production devices 144 shown in status interface 140.the job queue. The Examiner asserts that the queue interface 160 is a status interface as recited in Claim 1.

The Applicant respectfully asserts that Aiello's queue interface 160 is not a status interface as recited in Claim 1. At best, it is a queue interface for a plurality of production devices as recited in Claim 1 except that it does not include controls for managing production data held in the queue. Attention is drawn to paragraph [0028] of the Specification which defines a queue interface as: "an interface having controls for displaying the status of production data held in queue 36 as well as controls for manipulating the production data in queue 36." Aiello's queue interface 160 displays a listing of a series of jobs and the status of each job. Attention is drawn to paragraph [0027] of the specification which defines a status interface as an interface that "provides information concerning the current status of the particular production

device 16." Aiello's queue interface 160 does not provide the current status of a particular production device. It provides the status of a series of jobs.

Even if Aiello's queue interface 160 could be considered a status interface, Aiello's queue interface160 is not generated for a chosen one of the first and second production device selected through a queue interface. Aiello's queue interface 160 is generated for all production devices and not for a production device selected through Aiello's status interface 140. At best, Aiello would then teach generating a status interface for all production devices that are included in another status interface. Consequently, Aiello does not teach or suggest generating a status interface of a production device selected through a queue interface as the Examiner asserts.

The Examiner admits that Fertlisch and Aiello fail to teach or suggest generating a status interface for a chosen one of the first and second production device selected through the queue interface. Instead, the Examiner relies upon Matsie. In particular, the Examiner at page 4 of the office action cites Matsie, col. 9, lines 51-60. That passage is reproduced below:

> In summary, preferred embodiments in accordance with the present invention disclose a system for routing print jobs to one of a plurality of printers. After providing a print job, a set of printers capable of printing the print job is determined. The set of printers is queried to determine status information thereon. A criterion is then applied to the status information for the set of printers to determine a subset of printers. The determined subset is dependent upon the determined status information. A printer is selected from the subset and the print job is routed to the selected printer.

Matsie, col. 9, lines 51-60.

The cited passage mentions nothing of generating a status interface for a chosen one of the first and second production device selected through the queue interface as recited in Claim 1. Instead, Matsie discusses querying a group of printers for some form of status information. A subset of those printers is identified based on that status information and then one of the subset of printers is selected to print a print job. There is no mention of a status interface for any of the printers let alone generating such a status interface for a printer selected through a queue interface.

Consequently, Matsie also fails to teach or suggest generating a status interface for a chosen one of the first and second production device selected through the queue interface as recited in Claim 1.

Consequently, Fertlisch, Aiello, and Matsie fail to teach or suggest:

- generating a queue interface having user accessible controls for managing the first and second production data held in the queue,
- presenting the queue interface to the client and
- generating a status interface for a chosen one of the first and second production device selected through the queue interface.

For at least these reasons, Claim 1 is patentable over Fertlisch, Aiello, and Matsie as are Claims 2-3 and 5-7 which depend from Claim 1.

Claim 8, in the spirit of Claim 1, recites:

(a) providing a queue configured to contain production data directed to each of a plurality of production devices;
(b) acquiring an access request for a first production device of the plurality of production devices, the access request originating from a client;
(c) presenting to the client a production interface for the first production device, the interface having user accessible controls for selecting first production data identifying a target document and one or more production options;
(d) placing in a queue the first production data received from the client and selected through the production interface, the first production data being directed to the first production device;
(e) placing in the queue second production data directed to a second production device of the plurality of production devices;
(f) generating a queue interface having user accessible controls for managing the first and second production data in the queue;
(g) presenting the queue interface to the client;

(h) generating a status interface for a chosen one of the first and second production devices selected through the queue interface; and

(i) presenting the status interface to the client.

To summarize, Claim 8 recites placing first and second production data in a queue where the first production data is directed to a first production device and the second production data is directed to a second production device. A queue interface is generated. The queue interface has user accessible controls for managing the first and second production data in the queue. A status interface for a chosen one of the first and second production devices selected through the queue interface is also generated.

As explained with respect to Claims 1, Fertlisch, Aiello, and Matsie fail to teach or suggest the generation of a queue interface and a status interface in the particular manner recited by Claims 1 and 8. For at least the same reasons Claim 1 is patentable, so are Claim 8 and Claims 9 and 11-13 which depend from Claim 8. Claim 10 has been cancelled.

Claim 14 is directed to a computer program product for providing queue management and production device status in a distributed environment. The product includes a computer useable medium having computer readable instructions for implementing the method of Claim 1. For at least the same reasons Claim 1 is patentable, so are Claim 14 and Claims 15 and 17-19 which depend from Claim 14.

Claim 20 is directed to a computer program product for mediating access to production devices. The product includes a computer useable medium having computer readable instructions for implementing the method of Claim 8. For at least the same reasons Claim 8 is patentable, so are Claim 20 and Claims 21 and 23-25 which depend from Claim 20.

Claim 26 is directed to a system for providing queue management and production device status and recites elements for implementing the method of Claim

1. For at least the same reasons Claim 1 is patentable, so are Claim 26 and Claims 27-31 which depend from Claim 26.

Claim 32 is directed to a system for providing queue management and production device status and recites the following elements for implementing the method of Claim 8. For at least the same reasons Claim 8 is patentable, so are Claim 32 and Claims 34-38 which depend from Claim 32. Claim 33 was cancelled

Conclusion: In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Consequently, early and favorable action reversing the rejections and instructing the Examiner to pass the application to issue is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
Shell Sterling Simpson, et al.

By /Jack H. McKinney/
Jack H. McKinney
Reg. No. 45,685

February 27, 2008

APPENDIX OF CLAIMS INVOLVED IN THE APPEAL

1. (previously presented) A method for providing queue management and production device status in a distributed environment, comprising:

providing a queue configured to contain production data directed to each of a plurality of production devices;

placing first production data and second production data received from one or more clients in the queue, the first production data including first production options for a first target document identified by one of the one or more clients, the second production data including second production options for a second target document identified by one of the one or more clients;

generating a queue interface having user accessible controls for managing the first and second production data held in the queue, the first production data to be delivered from the queue to a first one of a plurality of production devices and the second production data to be delivered from the queue to a second on the plurality of production devices ;

presenting the queue interface to the client;

generating a status interface for a chosen one of the first and second production device selected through the queue interface; and

presenting the status interface to the client.

2. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising managing the first and second production data in the queue in accordance with instructions entered through the queue interface.

3. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the acts of generating the queue and status interfaces comprise generating the queue and status interfaces each in the form of a web page.

4. (cancelled)

5. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the acts of generating and presenting the status interface for the chosen production devices

comprise generating and presenting the status interface once the first or second production data is delivered to the chosen production device.

6. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the act of presenting the queue and status interfaces comprise generating and presenting a combined queue/status interface.

7. (original) The method of Claim 6 wherein:

the act of generating the queue interface comprises generating the queue interface in the form of a web page;

the act of generating the status interface comprises generating the status interface in the form of a web page; and

the act of generating the combined queue/status interface comprises generating the combined queue/status interface in the form of a framed web page.

8. (previously presented) A method for mediating access to production devices, comprising:

providing a queue configured to contain production data directed to each of a plurality of production devices;

acquiring an access request for a first production device of the plurality of production devices, the access request originating from a client;

presenting to the client a production interface for the first production device, the interface having user accessible controls for selecting first production data identifying a target document and one or more production options;

placing in a queue the first production data received from the client and selected through the production interface, the first production data being directed to the first production device;

placing in the queue second production data directed to a second production device of the plurality of production devices;

generating a queue interface having user accessible controls for managing the first and second production data in the queue;

presenting the queue interface to the client;

generating a status interface for a chosen one of the first and second production devices selected through the queue interface; and

presenting the status interface to the client.

9. (original) The method of Claim 8, wherein the acts of generating the queue and status interfaces comprise generating the queue and status interfaces each in the form of a web page.

10. (cancelled)

11. (previously presented) The method of Claim 8, wherein the acts of generating and presenting the status interface for the chosen production device comprise generating and presenting the status interface once the first or second production data is delivered to the chosen production device.

12. (original) The method of Claim 8, wherein the acts of generating and presenting the queue and status interfaces comprise generating and presenting a combined queue/status interface.

13. (original) The method of Claim 12 wherein:

the act of generating the queue interface comprises generating the queue interface in the form of a web page;

the act of generating the status interface comprises generating the status interface in the form of a web page; and

the act of generating the combined queue/status interface comprises generating the combined queue/status interface in the form of a framed web page.

14. (previously presented) A computer program product for providing queue management and production device status in a distributed environment, the product comprising a computer useable medium having computer readable instructions thereon for:

providing a queue configured to contain production data directed to each of a plurality of production devices;

placing first production data and second production data received from one or more clients in the queue, the first production data including first production options for a first target document identified by one of the one or more clients, the second production data including second production options for a second target document identified by one of the one or more clients;

generating a queue interface having user accessible controls for managing the first and second production data held in the queue, the first production data to be delivered from the queue to a first one of a plurality of production devices and the second production data to be delivered from the queue to a second on the plurality of production devices ;

presenting the queue interface to the client;

generating a status interface for a chosen one of the first and second production device selected through the queue interface; and

presenting the status interface to the client.

15. (original) The product of Claim 14, further comprising instructions for managing the first and second production data in the queue in accordance with instructions entered through the queue interface.

16. (cancelled)

17. (previously presented) The product of Claim 14, wherein the instructions for generating and presenting the status interface for the chosen production device comprise instructions for generating and presenting the status interface once the first or second production data is delivered to the chosen production device.

18. (original) The product of Claim 14, wherein the instructions for presenting the queue and status interfaces comprise instructions for generating and presenting a combined queue/status interface.

19. (original) The product of Claim 18 wherein:

the instructions for generating the queue interface comprise instructions for generating a queue interface in the form of a web page;

the instructions for generating the status interface comprise instructions for generating the status interface in the form of a web page; and

the instructions for generating the combined queue/status interface comprises generating the combined queue/status interface in the form of a framed web page.

20. (previously presented) A computer program product for mediating access to production devices, the product comprising a computer useable medium having computer readable instructions thereon for:

providing a queue configured to contain production data directed to each of a plurality of production devices;

acquiring an access request for a first production device of the plurality of production devices, the access request originating from a client;

presenting to the client a production interface for the first production device, the interface having user accessible controls for selecting first production data identifying a target document and one or more production options;

placing in a queue the first production data received from the client and selected through the production interface, the first production data being directed to the first production device;

placing in the queue second production data directed to a second production device of the plurality of production devices;

generating a queue interface having user accessible controls for managing the first and second production data in the queue;

presenting the queue interface to the client;

generating a status interface for a chosen one of the first and second production devices selected through the queue interface; and

presenting the status interface to the client.

21. (original) The product of Claim 20, wherein the instructions for generating the queue and status interfaces comprise instructions for generating the queue and status interfaces each in the form of a web page.

22. (cancelled)

23. (original) The product of Claim 20, wherein the instructions for generating and presenting the status interface for the chosen production device comprise instructions for generating and presenting the status interface once the first or second production data is delivered to the chosen production device.

24. (previously presented) The product of Claim 20, wherein the instructions for generating and presenting the queue and status interfaces comprise instructions for generating and presenting a combined queue/status interface.

25. (original) The product of Claim 24 wherein:

the instructions for generating the queue interface comprise instructions for generating the queue interface in the form of a web page;

the instructions for generating the status interface comprise instructions for generating the status interface in the form of a web page; and

the instructions for generating the combined queue/status interface comprise instructions for generating the combined queue/status interface in the form of a framed web page.

26. (previously presented) In a computer network, a system for providing queue management and production device status, the system comprising:

a plurality of production devices, each production device having a production server operable to generate a status interface for the particular production device;

a client operable to display a user interface;

a mediation service in electronic communication with the client and the production devices, the mediation service operable to place first and second production data received from the client in a queue, the first production data being

directed to a first production device of the plurality of production devices and including first production options for a first target document identified by the client, the second production data being directed to a second production device of the plurality of production devices and including second production options for a second target document identified by the client , generate a queue interface having user accessible controls for managing the first and second production data held in the queue, present the queue interface to the client, and present to the client the status interface for a chosen one of the first and second production devices selected through the queue interface.

27. (previously presented) The system of Claim 26, wherein the mediation service includes a queue manager operable to manage the first and second production data in the queue in accordance with instructions provided through the queue interface.

28. (previously presented) The system of Claim 26, wherein the mediation service includes an interface generator operable to present to the client the status interface for the chosen production device selected through the queue interface.

29. (original) The system of Claim 28, wherein the interface generator is further operable to generate and present the queue and status interfaces in the form of a combined queue/status interface.

30. (original) The system of Claim 29, wherein:

at least one of the production servers includes a web server operable to generate the status queue in the form of a web page associated with a first network address; and

the interface generator of the mediation service functions, at least in part, as a web server operable to generate the queue interface in the form of a web page associated with a second network address and to present the combined queue/status interface in the form of a framed web page having a first frame

referencing the first network address and a second frame referencing the second network address.

31. (previously presented) The system of Claim 26, further comprising an interface generator operable to present to the client the status interface for the chosen production device once production data is delivered from the queue to that device.

32. (previously presented) In a computer network, a system for providing queue management and production device status, the system comprising:

a plurality of production devices each having a production server operable to generate a status interface and manage production of a target document;

a client operable to issue an access request for a first production device of the plurality of production devices and to display one or more interfaces;

a queue for storing production data directed to each of the plurality of production devices;

an interface conduit in electronic communication with the client and the production server or servers, the interface conduit operable to acquire the access request originating from the client, present to the client a production interface for the production device to which the request is directed, to place in the queue first production data received from the client and selected through the production interface, and to place in the queue second production data, the first production data being directed to the first production device and the second production data being directed to a second production device of the plurality of production devices;

a queue manager operable to deliver the first and second production data from the queue to the production server for the production device to which that production data is to be delivered; and

an interface generator operable to generate and present to the client a queue interface and to present to the client the status interface for a chosen one of the first and second production devices selected through the queue interface.

33. (cancelled)

34. (original) The system of Claim 33 wherein the interface generator is further operable to present the queue and status interfaces in the form of a combined queue/status interface.

35. (original) The system of Claim 34, wherein:

the interface generator and at least one of the production servers each function, at least in part, as a web server;

the production server being further operable to generate the status interface in the form of a web page associated with a first network address; and

the interface generator being further operable to generate the queue interface in the form of a web page associated with a second network address and to present the combined queue/status interface in the form of a framed web page referencing the first and second network addresses.

36. (previously presented) The system of Claim 32, wherein the interface generator is further operable to present the status interface for the chosen production device once the first or second production data is delivered to the chosen production device.

37. (original) The system of Claim 36, wherein:

the interface generator and at least one of the production servers function at least in part as web servers;

the production server being further operable to generate the status interface in the form of a first web page; and

the interface generator being further operable to generate the queue interface in the form of a second web page.

38. (original) The system of Claim 32, wherein the queue manager is further operable to manage production data in the queue in accordance with instructions provided through the queue interface.

Evidence Appendix

There is no extrinsic evidence to be considered in this Appeal. Therefore, no evidence is presented in this Appendix.

Related Proceedings Appendix

There are no related proceedings to be considered in this Appeal. Therefore, no such proceedings are identified in this Appendix.